

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00189 111314Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05  
ERDA-05 AID-05 COME-00 FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15  
STR-04 CEA-01 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01  
OC-06 BIB-01 INT-05 FEAE-00 /130 W  
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P R 101155Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1211  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0189

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS:EFIN, CG, ETEL, FR  
SUBJECT: MORE ON DOMSAT

REF: KINSHASA 10614

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION JANUARY 7 WITH PRESIDENCY  
DIRECTOR BISENGIMANA RANGING OVER A NUMBER OF MATTERS, HE TOOK  
THE INITIATIVE IN RAISING DOMSAT. HE READ TO ME EXCERPTS FROM  
A STUDY APPARENTLY PREPARED RECENTLY (I.E., SINCE MY DIS-  
CUSSION OF DOMSAT WITH MOBUTU, REPORTED REFTEL) COVERING THE  
BACKGROUND OF THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT. HE STRESSED  
ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS THAT MOBUTU HAD MADE: GOZ'S  
DECISION TO GO WITH FRENCH AFTER US COMPETITORS HAD DROPPED  
OUT; AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN 1975 AND PROJECT THEREFORE NOT A NEW  
ONE; GOZ VIEWED PROJECT AS MEETING HIGH PRIORITY NEED FOR  
BETTER COMMUNICATIONS THROUGHOUT ZAIRE; DIFFICULTY IN UNDER-  
STANDING HOW US CAN GET SO EXERCISED OVER DOMSAT CONTRACT  
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 00189 111314Z

WHEN AT SAME TIME WE ARE ENCOURAGING GOZ TO UNDERTAKE NEW LOANS TO  
CONTINUE CIS CONTRACT FOR INGA-SHABA LINE; FACT THAT FRENCH HAVE  
ALREADY AGREED TO RESCHEDULE DOMSAT PAYMENTS.

2. I WENT OVER OUR REASONING ON THESE POINTS ALONG THE SAME LINES  
I HAD WITH MOBUTU. KNOWING BISENGIMANA'S LONG-HELD RESERVATIONS  
ABOUT THE CIS CONTRACT, I SPENT SOME TIME IN REVIEWING THE DIF-

FERENCES, AS WE SAW THEM, BETWEEN THE DOMSAT AND INGA-SHABA PROJECTS. IN DOING SO I STRESSED PARTICULARLY THE POINTS THAT THE INGA-SHABA LINE, IN CONTRAST TO DOMSAT, WAS DESIGNED TO HELP INCREASE ZAIRE'S PRODUCTION/EXPORT CAPACITY AND WAS ALREADY HALF FINISHED. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES RE RESCHEDULING, BISENGIMANA SAID FRANCE HAD ALREADY AGREED TO DEFER ALL PAYMENTS UNTIL 1978 WITH THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WOULD BE FURTHER DEFERRED UNTIL 1980. I SAID THIS ASSURANCE WAS ENCOURAGING AND REITERATED MY HOPE THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE THE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE FURTHER HELP TO ZAIRE. IN THIS RESPECT, I SAID I HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S RECENT SPEECH OUTLINING NEW, STRINGENT MEASURES FOR ECONOMIC REFORM.

3. COMMENT: BISENGIMANA, WHOM WE CONSIDER THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND DOMSAT, AT TIMES HAD DIFFICULTY RESTRAINING HIMSELF DURING OUR DISCUSSION. LIKE MOBUTU, HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE IMPLICATION THAT WE MIGHT PRESUME TO PASS JUDGMENT ON WHAT ZAIRE'S DOMESTIC PRIORITIES OUGHT TO BE. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT HAD OCCASION TO GAUGE MOBUTU'S OWN REACTIONS SINCE MY DEMARCHE, I SUSPECT BISENGIMANA'S OBVIOUS IRRITATION REFLECTS THAT OF THE PRESIDENT. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY POINTED OUT IN OUR REPORTING, WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE REAL RISKS TO OUR OTHER INTERESTS HERE IN PUSHING THIS ISSUE TOO FAR. MOBUTU'S ABRUPT DECISION TO TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PETROLEUM COMPANIES (SEPTEL) MAY INDICATE THAT HE HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO TAKE A TOUGHER STAND IN THIS RESPECT. NOR SHOULD WE FORGET MOBUTU'S CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE PANAM CONTRACT OR THE FACT THAT THE GOZ HAS STILL NOT COMPLETED THE FINAL FORMALITIES ON

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 00189 111314Z

THE INGA-SHABA LOAN. WITH MOBUTU AND ALL OF HIS KEY ADVISERS OUT OF TOWN FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO ASSESS THESE POSSIBLE STRAWS IN THE WIND. IN ANY CASE, AS FAR AS DOMSAT IS CONCERNED, THE BELGIANS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT US ON THIS ONE; THE IMF IS OBVIOUSLY NOT INCLINED TO MAKE IT AN ISSUE; AND WE REMAIN WARY OF HOW THE FRENCH MAY PLAY BACK TO THE GOZ ANY DEMARCHE WE MAKE TO THEM. IN SUM, I SEE NOTHING MORE TO BE GAINED -- AND PERHAPS CONSIDERABLE TO BE LOST IN TERMS OF OUR BROADER INTERESTS HERE -- BY PURSUING THIS ISSUE.

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## Message Attributes

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